

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, May 28, 2009

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note that the minutes are a brief summary
and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Jerry Lubin, Chair, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin

The presiding Chair called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd

Attendance recorded:

- Absent Excused: Lana Brody, Carlos Sosa, Hayward McNeill, Victoria Sofro, and Helen Wolff
- Absent: Deputy Phillip Chen

III. Approval of Minutes –

The minutes for the month of March 2009 were approved. The minutes for the month of April 2009 were approved with changes (Huffman/Perrou).

IV. Jerry Lubin, Chair, Discussed the following:

Public Hearing for the PEI Plan – The delegates requested a second public hearing for the PEI plan because of the many changes and adjustments necessary as a result of the special election outcome. Mental health services may face an additional \$30 million reduction in funding. A second PEI hearing will take place on Thursday, June 25, 2009 immediately after the Commission meeting. Both the Commission meeting and public hearing will be held at the Wilshire Plaza Hotel. The Commission meeting will start from 10 to 11:30 am; the public hearing will start at noon.

MHC/SAAC Chair meeting – At its monthly meeting held May 12, 2009 the group discussed communication issues and they established the following:

- Jerry Lubin and Marvin Southard will meet regularly to discuss the communication difference among some SAACs.
- A buddy system – Each SAAC chair who attends meetings contact an absent chair and deliver the meeting details.

Executive Committee Meeting – Larry Gasco, Vice Chair, discussed the following issues at the Executive Committee meeting held May 14, 2009:

- **Annual Retreat** – Saturday, June 6, 2009 was the date selected on a tentative basis for the Annual Commission Retreat; June 13 being the alternate date. A poll

taken among the Commissioners concluded the retreat will be held Saturday, June 6, 2009, location TBA.

- **Intern Staff Support to MHC** – The Commission requested an intern to provide staff support on projects. Dr. Southard approved the request and suggested perhaps providing someone from the displaced worker program.
- **Report Presenters** –
 - Elaine Powell, Division Chief of the Training Bureau** – Ms. Powell discussed issues pertaining to DMH conferences that were cancelled or postponed due to the budget cuts. The Commission is concerned that if conferences are postponed they may be dropped permanently. A discussion took place on fully utilizing the Training Staff to provide many of the trainings contracted out by DMH. Ms. Powell will follow up with a report to the full Commission at a later date.
 - Angelita Diaz-Akahori, WET Program Coordinator** - The WET plan was approved April 8, 2009. WET is officially a program. Three staff was hired and the advisory committee has been established. The program is currently seeking 72 stipends for MFTs, 52 stipends for MSWs, and it plans to develop career paths for non mental health positions.
 - Sandra Thomas, Deputy Director** - Ms. Thomas oversees the program activities for Specialized Children & Youth (includes Juvenile Justice and Transition Age Youth) and Service Area 6. Ms. Thomas discussed the details of an investigation completed in October 2008 by the Department of Justice of the Probation Camps in Los Angeles County. The investigation identified 12 deficiencies involving the protection of youth from harm and 17 deficiencies pertaining to suicide prevention and mental health care. In order to remedy the deficiencies DMH has requested 89 new positions and 300 new positions requested by Probation.

V. Commissioner/Subcommittee Report

FY 2009/2010 Nominations Committee Report - Commissioner Barry Perrou presented the slate of nominees for Executive Committee officers who will serve in 2009/2010.

They are as follows:

Chair – Jerry Lubin

Vice Chair – Larry Gasco

Secretary – Greg Thompson

Members-at-large –Delores Huffman, Victoria Sofro, and Helen Wolff,

Commissioner Delores Huffman – Ms. Huffman attended the Homeless and Forgotten: increasing Knowledge & Empathic Awareness for Black and Latino Homeless Families workshop May 26, 2009. The training was an interactive course on the unique strengths, challenges, and needs of African American and Latino families impacted by homelessness. Mental health concerns, community resources, statistical gaps and empathic service delivery information were presented. Schools are cooperating with homeless children so that they can complete the semester at a minimum.

Ms. Huffman submitted the following Housing Services report:

MHSA Housing Trust Fund -The board letter requesting approval to enter into contracts with the 12 awardees was approved on May 19.

MHSA Housing Program - Seventeen projects are actively participating in the MHSA Housing Program application process. The status of each project is shown below:

Initiating the Service Planning/Technical Review Process

- Swarthy World Society
- Epworth Apartments
- 28th St. YMCA Residences
- Bobbi Owens Family Living Community
- Caroline Severance Manor
- Avalon II Family Apartments
- Navy Village for Families

Technical Submission under Review and/or Posted for 30 Day Public Review and Comment

- Charles Cobb Apartments

Preparing Full Application for Submission

- Progress Place I and II

Application Submitted to the State

- Figueroa Apartments
- Ford Apartments
- Villas at Gower

Approved for Funding by the State

- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Daniel's Village
- Young Burlington
- Courtyards in Long Beach
- Glenoaks Gardens

Ongoing & Upcoming Activities - The Department is currently meeting with cities and other local government entities who were recipients of Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funding about potential opportunities to leverage NSP funding with MHSA Housing Program funding.

The Department recently applied for a \$75,000 grant through the United Way of Greater Los Angeles that will access federal stimulus funding. If awarded, the

funding will be used to supplement existing programs to provide rental assistance, food, household goods and hotel vouchers to mental health consumers who are homeless, as well as those who are non-traditional consumers of mental health services who may be experiencing trauma due to the economic crisis.

MHSA Housing Program Update - As of May 28, 2009, the Expression of Interest will be suspended because as stated in the Expression of Interest, the Department would accept Letters of Interest on a flow basis until the Department determines that it is in receipt of a sufficient number of Letters of Interest for proposed projects to exhaust the current \$115 million allocation for the Los Angeles County MHSA Housing Program.

Commissioner Ilean Rabens – Commissioner Rabens announced the Arts SMART program received a \$124,000 grant from the Quality and Productivity Commission. The grant will allow program expansion to 4 more camps. The expansion will include the Challenger Camp and another camp for girls. Of all the camps in LA County Challenger is the furthestmost distant on the County border. The new program will use a girl's camp model from another county developed by Dr. Tara Rose, USC Researcher.

Commission Frank Baron – Commissioner Baron was guest speaker at the LAC/USC School of Nursing class of 50 nurses. He also attended a concert in Long Beach sponsored by The Village in honor of "The Soloist." Steve Lopez and Ben Hong were present at the concert. Commissioner Baron was able to get the book, "The Soloist" signed by Steve Lopez and Nathaniel Ayers.

Commissioner Barry Perrou – Commissioner Perrou discussed issues in the letter of support from the Commission sent to the EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Commission. The intent is in collaboration with EMS requesting board's approval to convene a committee to study the most appropriate mechanism of transport for persons detained on a 5150 holds by peace officers.

Commissioner Greg Thompson – Commissioner Thompson commented the Commission's events held April 23, 2009 was successful, particularly "The Soloist" screening. The interaction between the panel and comments from the clients was an excellent way to end the evening.

Commissioner Thompson stated he would like to work with Dr. Shaner to obtain data of the number of people with physical disabilities who have been referred to the Department of Mental Health. Mr. Thompson is trying to determine if individuals with physical disabilities are not receiving services.

Mr. Thompson is also interested in working with youth in middle schools to prevent gang violence.

Commissioner Howard Askins – Commissioner Askins attended the clinical policy meeting on May 27, 2009, chaired by Dr. Rod Shaner. The capacity to retrieve data has improved because the bulk comes from IS rather than MIS. Data will be current and

reflect a certain point in time and continually refreshed each month. Information on service levels, access and treatment will remain in tact. The new grid gives a snapshot of clinical activities and services provided and can be used to recommend changes for MHSA services.

VI. Departmental Report - Dr. Marvin J. Southard, Director discussed the following:

- Budget – The Governors proposed budget cuts would reduce funding to mental health services by an additional \$30 million dollars. Currently statewide managed care is being reduced 23% and ancillary services will be cut. Proposed reductions of CalWORKs and Health Families programs, if carried through would cause an enormous negative effect on programs that impact community services and SED kids.
- Departmental – Dr. Southard commended the Commission for the successful events on April 23, 2009. He wishes to collaborate with the Commission for next years award celebration and join the DMH 50 year founding.
- MHSA – Counties are currently in the process of building a prudent reserve of MHSA funds to tide over during the economic downturn with hope that the economy will make a significant recovery by fiscal year 2011-2012. Planning efforts for the stakeholder process will involve developing strategies to do business differently so that the quality to clients is not reduced. To cope with the conditions of turbulence mental health programs should work together to build trust and minimize uncertainty so that better decisions can be made.

VII. Community and SAAC Chair Reports

SAAC 2 – Roberta Burkenheim reported on the details of the MHC/SAAC Chair meeting held May 12, 2009. Ms. Burkenheim is the proxy for the SAAC 2 Chair therefore she can attend and represent the SAAC in an official capacity. Ms. Burkenheim reported the consumers have been working together to find free services because of the state program and budget cuts. The goal is to develop a book of free services and present the information to consumers and line staff at workshops in the service areas. Presentations have already been made in service area 2 and 6 and plans are being moved forward to present the workshops in the other service areas.

VIII. Public Comments - None

IX. Meeting Adjourned

X. Next Meeting Information – The next scheduled meeting will be held OFFSITE:

Thursday, June 25, 2009
10 – 11:30 pm
Wilshire Plaza Hotel
3515 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90010